TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 23, 2005 LR 12

Legislature and citizen Legislature deserves consideration on a...you know, yearly basis, as to what that salary is going to be. That's why I liked this amendment. That's why I like the original amendment that I proposed, because we're saying, gosh, even if you only work half a year, wouldn't it be worth \$18,000? Hopefully, the answer to that, from the people of the state and from the members of this body would be, yes. But if the answer, as we go down through these amendments, or if the discussion changes, and we find the answer to the questions that we pose is that we in the state of Nebraska should be a professional Legislature, then this is not the amendment for you, in my humble opinion. If this is going to be a professional Legislature--I believe this--then we've got amendments down the line that are, I think, a little bit closer to achieving that They might not get there, but they're a little bit closer to achieving that. This will never do that. You got the consumer price index attached to it, with an \$18,000 salary. Nobody is going to serve eight years and get to that point where they feel like they've got that professional salary associated So all I would say is...or, I would hope that we can with it. keep that in mind, that the division between the citizen or part-time Legislature and the full-time Legislature has got to come, unfortunately, with a price tag attached to it. And I think if we want to continue down this road where we say, we do have people that are serving a citizen Legislature in a part-time manner, this type of answer makes a lot of sense. Mr. President, that's all I have. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Kruse.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Stuhr, let me ask you a couple of questions about how this would work. And this may sound self-evident, but I just wanted to be sure it was on the record.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuhr, would you respond?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It says, each member of the Legislature shall receive an annual salary equal to \$18,000, and increased